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DIRECTOR

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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DIST: 03 JULY 1990

COUNTRY: CHILE

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS

DOI: MID-JUNE 1990

TEXT: 1. MID-JUNE 1990,

THEIR REACTIONS

COMMENTED

ALTHOUGH AN OPTIMISTIC PUBLIC DECLARATION WAS MADE STATING THE
NORMALITY OF ARMY-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND HIGHLIGHTING THE ARMY'S
WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE, THIS WAS AN UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE
DIFFICULTIES FACING THE ADMINISTRATION IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH SENIOR
ARMY OFFICERS.

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WHILE THEY DID NOT FORESEE ANY NEAR-TERM DANGER OF A MILITARY COUP, THE ATTITUDE OF THE GENERALS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE TASK OF RECONCILIATION AND CLARIFICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS WOULD BE A DIFFICULT STRUGGLE.

2. THAT AFTER THE PRESIDENT MADE HIS SPEECH OUTLINING GENERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, HIS DESIRE FOR HARMONIOUS RELATIONS, THE SOCIAL DEMANDS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION FACES, AND THE NEED TO RESOLVE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES VIA THE NATIONAL TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (NTRC), ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF CAPTAIN GENERAL AUGUSTO ((PINOCHET)) UGARTE MADE A SPEECH THANKING THE PRESIDENT, AND PLEDGING ARMY COLLABORATION BUT AT THE SAME TIME STRESSING THE NEED FOR RESPECT FOR HIS INSTITUTION. PINOCHET WENT ON TO DETAIL THE ARMY'S VIEWS OF THE "CIVIL WAR" SITUATION IN 1973, AND TO STRONGLY ATTACK WHAT IN THE ARMY'S VIEW IS A CAMPAIGN TO FORCE HIM FROM OFFICE VIA MEDIA ATTACKS, PARTICULARLY FROM THE CENTER-LEFT DAILY "FORTIN-MAPOCHO", AND ATTEMPTS TO DISTORT THE ARMY'S ROLE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS SINCE 1973. PINOCHET ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DISPLEASURE WITH WHAT HE CONSIDERED POLITICAL COMMENTARIES MADE BY RELIGIOUS FIGURES SUCH AS THE ARCHBISHOP OF SANTIAGO, EVIDENCING A DEGREE OF PARANOIA ON THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN CHILE ACCORDING TO AYLWIN AND ROJAS.

3. PINOCHET THEN CALLED ON THE ASSEMBLED GENERALS TO EXPRESS ANY COMMENTS THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE. THE FOLLOWING GENERALS THEN SPOKE IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE PREARRANGED DELIVERIES:

A. MAJOR GENERAL JORGE ((BALLERINO)) SANFORD, HEAD OF THE CINC'S POLITICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION (CAPE) BALLERINO EMPHASIZED THE FACT THAT CHILEAN SOCIETY COULD NOT SUSTAIN FURTHER TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES SUCH AS THE DISCOVERY OF THE GRAVES AT PISAGUA AND THAT MEASURES NEEDED TO BE TAKEN TO CONTROL POLITICAL EXPLOITATION OF SUCH MATTERS. BALLERINO ALSO INDICATED THAT THE ARMY DID NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON RECORD AS TO THE LOCATION OF OTHER SIMILAR SITES.

B. ARMY VICE-CINC LT. GENERAL JORGE ((LUCAR)) FIGUEROA: LUCAR COMMENTED ON THE PRESENCE OF "15,000" FOREIGN MERCENARIES ON CHILEAN SOIL ASSISTING THE ALLENDE REGIME, THE DANGERS THEY POSED AND HOW THIS ALSO JUSTIFIED THE MILITARY COUP. LUCAR WAS UNABLE TO ANSWER ROJAS' QUESTION AS TO WHERE THE 15,000 PEOPLE VANISHED TO IF THEY WERE PRESENT AT THE TIME.

C. MAJOR GENERAL LUIS ((SERRE)) OCHESENIUS, ARMY I CORPS COMMANDER: SERRE CLAIMED THAT THE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING PISAGUA WAS "ARTIFICIAL" AND UNREASONABLE IN NATURE. SERRE WAS UNABLE TO RESPOND TO ROJAS' QUERY AS TO HOW THE BODIES FOUND WERE "ARTIFICIAL."

D. BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSE ((CARRERA)) RIVERA, COMMANDER OF THE VII BRIGADE: CARRERA DENOUNCED COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHILE (PCCH) MACHINATIONS, EFFORTS TO DOMINATE CHILE, DUPLICITY AND MADE OTHER SIMILAR REMARKS REGARDING THE PCCH.

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